THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Quantitative Restrictions are maintained in terms of Para 2.6 of the Foreign Trade Policy which includes protection of human, animal or plant life and health etc. India has been following a continuous policy of removal of Quantitative Restrictions on imports since 1991. Most of the consumer goods are freely importable, subject to the applicable rate of customs duty. However, the imports are being closely monitored and the Government is determined to ensure through the appropriate use of tariff and non tariff mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious injury to the domestic producers/indigenous industry.

Trade negotiations under Doha Round in Paris

1731. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sent any team to attend the special session of Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on "Trade Negotiations under the Doha Round in Paris" recently;

(b) if so, the composition of the team thereof;

(c) the details of the meetings held in this regard;

(d) the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the expenditure incurred for the said visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) An Indian delegation led by the Minister of Commerce and Industry (C&IM), while attending among other meetings, the Mini-Ministerial meeting of 35 countries on WTO, meeting of G-20 Ministers, and FIPs (Five Interested Parties) Ministers meeting, also participated in the Session on "Trade Negotiations under the Doha Development Round" under the Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris on 4 May 2005. The other members of the delegation were (i) Shri Gopal K. Pillai, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce; (ii) Shri Ujal Singh Bhatia, Ambassador/PR

to WTO, PMI, Geneva; (iii) Shri Anthony de Sa, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce and (iv) Shri D. Vijayan Pillai, OSD to C&IM.

(c) and (d) Besides the regular members of the OECD, Ministers from selected non-Member economies including India were invited by the OECD. India stated that development is the key deliverable under the on-going WTO negotiations and that market access for products of developing countries should be ensured without impeding their development goals. In this regard, the need for tackling Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) was stressed. India wanted a 'development audit' of the negotiations to be conducted and advised that the OECD should take up such an exercise. India's defensive concerns in agriculture as well as the need for policy space under non-agricultural market access and maintenance of high ambitions in services were also highlighted.

In this summary at the end of the meeting, the Prime Minister of Sweden and the Chairman of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, *inter alia,* stated that the Ministers stressed the need for ensuring a successful outcome of the Doha Development Agenda by the end of 2006. In this summary, it was also stated that the interest of developing countries had to be secured across the board and that the developing countries' interests and concerns must be fully reflected in the result of these negotiations. The summary recognised that enhanced technical assistance and capacity building, including to improve supply-side capacities and institution building were crucial for developing countries to reap the gains from trade and recognised that the OECD Member countries had a key role to play.

(e) The approximate expenditure incurred by Government on airfare, hotel accommodation, daily allowance and hiring of transport in connection with deputation of the official delegation led by C&IM to Paris for attending all the Ministerial and Official meetings held there on WTO issues, as well as the OECD Ministerial Council meeting, was about Rs. 16.59 lakhs.

Special coffee term loan for coffee growers of Karnataka

1732. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: